

DESERET EVENING NEWS

Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The situation in China is certainly of the gravest character. While there is much doubt as to details, and one report is contradicted by another, it is clear that a concerted movement is in progress there directed against all foreigners. Whether the tales of blood and horror that come over the wires are all true or not, there is no doubt that the Chinese are aroused against European invaders and European customs and methods, with a determination to drive them out of the empire.

When the immense population of China is considered, associated with the fact that modern weapons of warfare have been adopted there, and the imitative abilities of that people have been exercised in patterning after more civilized appliances for attack and defense, the magnitude of the present menace to the peace of the world may be to some extent appreciated. It is the Orient against the Occident, the vast growth of ages against modern products in government, a force of immense magnitude against a number of powers which, though united for the moment, may become divided and hostile among themselves, in the development of the issues opened in the mighty struggle.

What with the prospects of war that threatens to become general, the frightful disturbances of earth and air, the configurations, the accidents by sea and land, the political convulsions and religious conflicts, the world is in a turmoil that seems to fulfill the Savior's prediction concerning the latter days: "for all things are in commotion," "men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things that are coming on the earth."

These are signs of the times and but "the beginnings of sorrows." We are living in the last days, and all that has been foretold about them by the holy prophets will surely come to pass. The disciples of the Nazarene should observe His precepts and "stand in holy places that they be not moved," when the things that are to precede His coming shake terribly the powers of the earth.

THE WHEAT SITUATION.

There seem to be two distinct opinions about the wheat situation in the United States. One is that the yield of spring wheat in the three north-western States, as compared to that of last year, is considerably short—the figures being 56,000,000 and 225,000,000 bushels, respectively—and that the prospective war in China and the greater Chinese markets promise a largely increased demand.

Another view is that last year's crop was unusually large, leaving an amount on hand to compensate for possible deficiency in some States, and to keep the price down. It is further supposed that the crop in Kansas will reach 100,000,000 bushels, which is much larger than ever before and that the winter wheat crop generally is above an average.

Figures are given to substantiate both lines of argument, and between the two, the farmer, who is most directly interested in the price of grain, is left to guess at the real facts. As a rule, however, there is a tendency to exaggerate the damage done to grain fields by drought, or frost, and at harvest time the crop generally turns out better than previous reports would indicate.

The situation in Utah is, as far as we know, considered satisfactory, speaking of the average. In some localities complaint is made of lack of water for irrigation purposes, and those who engage in dry farming have not seen the hopes realized that were entertained when in the early spring there was an abundance of rain. Some have been compelled to cut their grain for fodder. But as a rule, the snow stored in the mountains has been sufficient for irrigation purposes, and a good crop is expected in most localities heard from. There can be little doubt, however, that the prices of breadstuffs will be high all over the world, particularly if the trouble in China should develop an armed conflict of considerable magnitude. That would take thousands away from the peaceful occupations of the farmer and necessitate the exportation of provisions from all the granaries of the world.

FAKE JOURNALISM.

We have seen somewhere an announcement of the publication of a paper, one attraction of which is the fact that it is, so-and-so, or Hon. so-and-so, is NOT going to contribute to its columns.

This sounds strange, but the abuse of popular names by "yellow" journals, and the fraud thereby perpetrated on the public are now so notorious that it is no wonder if a reaction has set in. Men and women who may have become famous for one reason or another, are made to appear as authors on subjects

with which they are not in the least familiar, and on which they cannot be supposed to be specially qualified to speak. Sometimes the little scheme is resorted to in order to give the weight of authority to a weak cause, and more often for no other reason than to catch the pennies of a gullible public.

Recently a case of this kind was exposed to public view. A correspondent of the New York Evening Post sent the subjoined letter, dated New York, June 29, to that journal. It tells its own story:

"To the Editor of The Evening Post: 'Sir—Permit me to give you an example of the kind of journalism which has no right to be called 'yellow.' 'Mr. Whitaker lately published an address of mine, 'Inspiration from a Layman's Point of View,' one of the objects of which was to show that the members of the Episcopal church are not required to believe in the infallibility of the Bible as a test of loyal membership.

"Imagine my surprise the other day, when a friend called my attention to an advertisement in a 'yellow journal' of an article from me to appear in its Sunday edition, on 'Inspiration in Science and Religion.' On getting the paper, I found a garbled part of my pamphlet, with my name signed at the bottom, as if it were a contribution to the paper; and so carelessly were unrelated paragraphs put together that I was made to affirm that no one in the Episcopal church could be tried for heresy in respect of anything except the infallibility of the Bible, and that courts of equity would enjoin the attempt.

"Doubtless the publication, as made, was libellous, in that it tended to throw ridicule upon a professional man; because a theologian would be apt to think that the writer was an ignoramus, and a lawyer would certainly say he must be a numskull. Your readers probably seldom see a yellow journal, but I should be obliged if you will kindly publish this note, so that any of my friends who happen to see the forgery may acquit me of guilt. J. B. L."

TO FIGHT DRUNKENNESS.

The girls in Great Bend, Kansas, seem to have commenced a war against the liquor traffic, which, it is hoped, will have practical results. They have formed an organization known as the D. D. M. B., which letters stand for: "Don't Drink, My Boy."

The modus operandi of the organization is somewhat like this: The girls stand on guard all day long, taking turns at it, and making notes of those who patronize the saloons. A complete record is kept of those with whom they are personally acquainted, but the club is especially directed towards suppressing the evil among the young men of the town. Meetings are held once a week to exchange information which they have secured.

When a young man first is discovered to have entered a saloon, a card is sent him, informing him that he has been seen, and notifying him that if the offense is repeated, he may consider himself ostracized by the society of the town. If this has no effect, his name will finally be published in a little pamphlet called The Monthly Bar Record.

What the effects of this crusade have been so far, is not known, but judging from the peculiarities of human nature, they should be encouraging. A young man may not have self-respect enough, or the necessary strength of character, to resist the temptation, but very few young men would, when anxiously watched by their best girls, commit an act not censured by them and their associates. They would not risk their reputation among all the young ladies of the city, for the sake of an hour of hilarity in a bar room.

There can be no doubt that the women are capable of wielding a great power for good in a reform movement. American gentlemen appreciate the applause of the fair sex, just as much as did the knights of olden days. For that reason they can spur their brothers on to acts of bravery in the battle against sin and temptation, no less commendable than those that attract attention on fields stained with human blood. It is a good thing when women take hold, earnestly and intelligently, of a good reform movement. They are sure of victory, if they hold out long enough.

But North Bend, Kan., is not the only city in which war should be declared against the evil of drunkenness. In almost every city in this fair land, it is growing, and around it are gathered the numerous influences that help to disrupt families, and to fill the prisons and asylums with inmates. The evil is especially rampant at pleasure resorts, disgracing our public gatherings with scenes of rowdiness. The common methods for its suppression seem inadequate. Something out of the ordinary will be needed, if success is to be expected.

SALE OF BIBLES.

The New Orleans Times Democrat quotes an agent of a large publishing house as saying that the Bible is the best selling book in existence. Its sale surpasses even that of the novel that happens to be the fad of the day. The statement will undoubtedly surprise many, who have no idea of the magnitude of the trade in the sacred Scriptures.

The agent referred to went on to say to the newspaper man that last year the American Bible society alone issued 1,026,801 copies. This is one of the largest concerns, but there are several others in the United States and a number in England and Europe, all turning out nothing but Bibles. They publish them in every conceivable shape, from the beautiful Oxford editions in flexible covers at \$5 apiece, down to the little cheap volumes in fine print that retail for a nickel. Nowadays a very good, serviceable Bible is sold for 50 cents. It has all the latest and best notes, several colored maps and a very useful index. The sale of that edition has been

enormous and has run into the hundreds of thousands.

Another fact in connection with the circulation of the Bible is this, that the war carried on on both sides of the water affected the sale of Bibles very much. According to the agent, every American soldier and every English soldier carried a Bible with him into the field. The explanation is offered seriously, that the old stories of Bibles that have stopped bullets have influenced many a mother, sister or sweetheart in the selection of a good, thick volume to send with their loved ones upon leaving home. But the probability is that the motive, as far as Americans and British are concerned, is purer than that.

The Anglo-Saxons are a religious race. Infidelity has no real home among them. In times of danger, in sickness and in death, they naturally turn with their thoughts to God, and things eternal. The young man who scoffs and acts carelessly is really not himself. It is against the national character as formed by the training received throughout many centuries. A call to arms is likely to awaken the self-consciousness, and with it the religious sentiments natural to the Anglo-Saxons.

This accounts sufficiently for the greater circulation of Bibles in times of war and national calamities. When the sea of life is smooth and there is sunshine all around, the gilded craft of unbelief may appear safe, but when the wind of adversity rises, and the waves roll and roar, it is speedily turned out of its course and dashed to pieces against the rocks. Then faith stands secure, and furnishes a place of safety to all who rest their souls thereon. That is one lesson from the fact that no book is as widely circulated, even at this day, as the Hebrew sacred Scriptures.

KRUGER STILL HOPEFUL.

President Kruger, a few days ago, was reported to have said to a newspaper man: "Our people are cheerful and hopeful and regard with confidence the prospects for ultimate victory."

The affairs in China have for the time being so completely absorbed public interest, that the South African situation has about been lost sight of. But as far as known, nothing has transpired to modify the conclusion that the British are masters in the South African republics, and that the opposition to their rule is now reduced to guerrilla warfare. What there is in this to inspire hope and confidence is unknown to the world.

But old man Kruger is a peculiar character. When he speaks of hope, he in all probability means that he still anticipates divine interference in behalf of his people. That seems have been his secret hope from the beginning, and he still clings to it. Very strange! But then, it is not in the nature of faith to "hope against hope."

And is it absolutely certain that in this he is mistaken? History alone can tell what troubles the British yet may encounter, both in Africa and Asia, and what weighty reasons may yet press themselves, for the postponement for the time being, of the South African final settlement.

MORGANATIC CONTRACTS.

The dispatches have announced that Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria, has decided to enter into a so-called morganatic marriage with Countess von Chotek, and it is even said that the aged Emperor Francis Joseph is contemplating a similar union with an actress, whose beauty has attracted royal attention and royal favor.

In Europe kings and princes can only marry women of royal blood, but in Germany and Austria they are permitted to enter into "morganatic" unions, by which the bride is not elevated to the rank of the husband, nor the children to the estate of the father. The woman obtains the name of wife, but she and her children remain on a level socially and politically below that of the husband and father. In fact, it renders the union legitimate only in part.

That such an institution is still flourishing, and receives the sanction of one of the most popular rulers of Europe, is almost unintelligible to the American public. But it reveals better than anything else the hypocrisy of the claim made so often for superior morals in the "Christian" world. While we hear so much about the "slavery" of Mohammedan women, and their degradation in the palaces of the Sultans, we may justly feel ashamed of "morganatic" compacts in the palaces of "Christian" rulers.

If a woman is good enough to be a wife, she certainly is good enough to be a queen, for the station of a wife is more important than that of a monarch. Matrimony is a divine institution. Kings and queens may wear a crown but temporarily. Royal dignity and authority may cease at the grave, but those who faithfully perform the duties of husband or wife may continue to develop, and finally obtain crowns and principalities, worlds without end.

Morganatic marriages are a relic from a time when kings and princes were the central figures in escapades which history blushes to record. That they still exist is a severe reflection on our civilization.

A LIBRARY IN MANILA.

A movement is on foot for the establishment of an American library in Manila. It is under the auspices of the Woman's Army and Navy League, Washington, D. C., composed mainly of the wives and daughters of American army and navy officers.

In a letter received by one of its members from Mrs. C. R. Greenleaf, wife of Colonel Greenleaf, the writer endeavors to enlist the sympathy of Americans in the laudable enterprise. She says in part:

"I greatly hope the women of America will take up this work which is intended as a memorial to all our dead who have given their lives for their country's cause, and should therefore be a monument of which our country should be proud. So far, after such struggles I have never to meet again, our rooms are opened with about four thousand volumes on our shelves, many of the books but poorly bound, soiled and worn, but some are very worthy being placed as a nucleus of future greatness. Our reading room, with magazines and about ten papers sent regularly from

the States, are well patronized, and are daily enjoying the privilege of quiet reading. To this room we ask the contribution of papers from every city and a copy of all the leading journals from the United States. We have distributed over twenty thousand magazines and newspapers to the troops in the field and hospitals, also about six hundred paper covered novels. Grateful letters and appeals for more by every mail. This work, of course, needs money, and when we are most successful money is more needed until we get thoroughly established. I put a bill before Congress, but so far have heard nothing from it, the sum asked was probably too small to appeal to them—only \$5,000, but it would mean much to us here, for unless aid comes soon I cannot keep the library open. Most of the officers in the Philippines, if married, are, as you know, supporting two establishments—the family at home or here and the officer in the field, hence we cannot look for much aid from them, and surely those who stay at home, ought to be willing to afford this recreation of the mind to those who have the hardships of war in a foreign country. The citizens, mostly foreigners, we will not ask to help America place a memorial for American heroes, so unless our country supports us, we must acknowledge to failure. I think I can with great accuracy, keep things going for a couple of months or three at the greatest, but not longer, but my faith is strong that ere then help will come. At least I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have tried to do a work that I believe is more appreciated than almost any that has been done."

The library is intended as a memorial to the soldiers who have given their lives in the wars of their country. Contributions are to be made payable to "Treasurer Memorial Library Fund" and forwarded to Mrs. Marshall L. Ludington, vice president Woman's Army and Navy League, care of General M. L. Ludington, quartermaster general, war department, Washington, D. C.

A case of alleged "smallpox" does not create consternation in the city any more, not even enough to send the patient to the pest house. Experience is a great teacher.

The recall of several regiments from Cuba indicates that the object for which they were sent there is considered nearly accomplished. Cuba libre is about to become a fact.

The rumors from Pekin are all of a more or less uncertain character, but they seem to give but little hope of the safety of the foreigners. The world must prepare for a true story of horror, and for some serious work.

Thomas B. Reed is quoted as having said recently that, "although it does not seem a good time now to so prophesy, yet the faith remains with many of us who are still of the world's people, that the principles which gave the Friends their name will finally bring to the earth a reign of peace."

Maxim, the famous gunmaker, thinks that the world is on the verge of a war greater than any which has happened in the past. The wish may be father to the thought, for Maxim would derive special benefit from such a war, but it must be admitted that there is an ominous noise in the air at the present time, as if the hosts of Valhalla were preparing for the last tussle.

It seems strange that intelligent readers of daily newspapers will persist in sending anonymous communications to the press expecting them to be noticed, when the rule is to put them into the fire in cold weather and the waste basket in warm, and this notice has been served upon the public until it is a long haired, bewhiskered and almost mouldy chestnut.

Forestry is a comparatively new profession in this country, says a writer in Leslie's Weekly, and one that offers special inducements for young men. The fact that the federal government is increasing the area of its forest preserves largely every year and that many State governments are following this laudable example, suggests the ever widening field already open to students and specialists in the science of forestry.

HOBOKEN FIRE.

San Francisco Call.

Had any warning been needed to put the American people on guard at this season against the ever menacing danger of fire it would be found in the appalling disaster which has swept the steamship piers at Hoboken, and in addition to destroy millions of dollars' worth of property caused an awful loss of life. This calamity following so closely upon that at Ottawa gives the year a dreadful record of fire losses and increases the necessity of the people of the need of greater carelessness in handling anything likely to produce a conflagration.

Chicago News.

One of the greatest ocean disasters of modern times—perhaps the very greatest in point of lives sacrificed and property lost—occurred at the docks of New York. Mammoth steamers, constructed with the highest skill and at prodigious expense, in order to insure their safety amid the perils of the sea, were destroyed as they lay snugly at the end of the voyage, their bows against the shore and within easy hail of all the life-saving resources of one of the world's greatest cities. Passengers of whose security against storms, shoals, collisions and all the dangers of the ocean nothing had been spared perished in the water's edge, with absolutely no chance of saving themselves.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The total destruction of four great ocean steamships, with serious damage to a fifth, and a horrible loss of human life, at Hoboken last Saturday, brings into strong light the necessity of larger precautions against fire. The flames started in a bale of cotton on one of the wharves, and in a few minutes twelve hundred feet of water-front were in a blaze. Ten million dollars' worth of property was consumed and two hundred or more human beings were swept into eternity. Only a week before, while the bales of inflammable freight were being loaded into one of the doomed ships, a spectator had shudderingly remarked: "If I were an autocat I would make a law that cotton should never be carried on a passenger vessel, and that it should be handled on docks remote from general shipping." The conditions surrounding the great ocean steamers while lying at their docks are singularly favorable to the spread of flames.

San Francisco Chronicle.

New York's experience with the burning Atlantic liners is likely to result in a complete reformation of the system of porting in ships, as it surely should. No portholes should be allowed by law to be put into the side of any vessel that is not large enough to admit freely the passage of a human body. It involves a little extra expense in the construction of the hull of a big passenger steamship, but the public safety is paramount over every other consideration, and we have had a dis-

Excursion Parties,

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Marmalades

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 Mackerel
 Salmon
 Sardines
 Mushrooms
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 Pickles
 Pineapple
 Plum Pudding
 Lunch Shrimps
 Sauces and Catsups
 Salad Dressing

Vienna Sausage

Ham Sausage
 Chicken Tamales
 Baked Beans with Tomato Sauce
 Chipped Beef
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pressing object lesson, demonstrating the fact that there may be a time in the life of any modern steamship when such openings become the only available fire-escapes.

New York Evening Post.

Rear Admiral Melville, who witnessed the horrible affair, makes the wise suggestion that the port-holes in passenger ships ought to be large enough for the body of a man weighing 200 pounds to pass through, and that if these ships had been thus port-holed, most of the lives of the imprisoned crew would have been saved. It is evident also that if the ships which were exposed to this fire had had sufficient steam on to move themselves, the fire would have been restricted to the piers, and there would have been no loss of life. But these giants were inert and helpless.

New York World.

That this appalling loss of life could occur at the docks of a great city, in the middle of a beautiful June afternoon, with the river swarming with boats of all descriptions, seemed incredible even to those who witnessed the swift conflagration. But the reasons for it appear in the graphic story of The World's reporters and artists. Every great fire has its moral. Non-combustible wharves would seem to be one obvious lesson of this calamity.

DEMAND FOR POOR LO.

Omaha World-Herald.

Since the old days when Indians were to be seen in their native state are passing away, the civilized communities which have become possessed of their free and romantic domain, are longing for something like a return of the savagery with which the pioneer contended. The result is that the Indian, who once was the terror of settlers, who wielded a tomahawk that cleaved real skulls, whose warwhoop meant blood and burning, is now being brought back, singly, in groups and in battalions, to perform in pantomime as a show and a holiday spectacle the wild and barbarous acts that have furnished the theme of so much American story. Civilization, it is said, is a blighting sun upon the aborigine. He withers and is perished before it. But the white man seems loath to let him go, and at a safe distance and under proper restraint prefers still to see him uncivilized.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

On the coverage of Harper's Weekly for June 30th, a portrait of President McKinley and a facsimile of his autograph are presented. The number illustrates the Philadelphia convention, and furnishes articles and pictures on many timely topics.—Harper & Bros., New York.

In the July number of Table Talk, the reader will find an instructive paper on "House Flies." It is the third paper in a series on household insects. "Mending in the Home" is an article that any housekeeper will get some good points by reading. "A neglected Berry" is the heading of an article that treats of the Elderberry. Under the head of "Midsummer Hospitality" are given a Fourth of July luncheon and a rustic tea, with menu and decorations. Table Talk gives the latest information in menus and decorative meals.—Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

In the July number of the Improvement Era, the organ of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, the first place is given to an article by Nephel Anderson, entitled, "The Pioneer." The Pioneer, it is a comparison indicated by the title. This is followed by a poem by Sarah E. Pearson, "Independence Day in Mexico." "The Road of the Cataract" is a Fourth of July contribution by Sarah Whalen. Among the contributions to this number, besides those mentioned, are B. H. Roberts who writes on "A Nephtie's Commandment to His Three Sons," Dr. E. Davis on "Russian Training," and H. W. Nelsbitt on "Salvation Diversified." In the Speakers' Contests the two addresses that won the first and second places are given in full. The Era offers several poems, and numerous contributions on live topics. It is an excellent magazine for the young, and one which can be read by all with profit.—Templeton Building, Salt Lake City.

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COMING EVENTS.

Tomorrow—Children's day. Wednesday, July 11, Hall Adial, THE TERRIBLE TURK, champion wrestler of the world, against all comers, in the cycle coliseum. Thursday, July 12th, MAXWELL POST, G. A. R., all-day-encampment.

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